

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and again examine the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 – 24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-24 are rejected. No claims are yet allowed. Claims 12 - 14 are amended herein. No claims are being cancelled and no new claims are being added by this Response

In accordance with the revised provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) as enacted on July 30, 2003, a marked up version of the amended specification paragraphs is provided above.

Also attached are replacement sheets for the figures. These drawings are the same as the drawings submitted on November 4, 2004 but the label “Replacement Sheet” has been added to the top of each figure.

Applicants have amended the specification on page 2 to reflect that the drawing sheet which contained Fig. 1 as originally filed has been split onto two sheets labeled as Fig. 1A and Fig. 1B, respectively. Taken together, Figs. 1A and 1B are intended to be identical to Fig. 1 as originally filed. Approval of this change is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gellekink (U.S. Patent number 4,743,907).

To sustain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. In this case, Claim 1 recites “...radiating a first signal beam from ... a first radar ... radiating a second signal beam ... of a second radar ... receiving echo signals from the first signal beam at the first and second radars ... receiving echo signals from the second signal beam at the first and second radars ... processing the echo signals

received at the first radar to produce first radar processed echo signals ... processing the echo signals received at the second radar to produce second radar processed echo signals; and combining the first and second radar processed echo signal values to form an aggregate value....

Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentably distinct over Gellekink since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests a method in which one radar processes signals from a second different radar to provide a processed radar signal. Gellekink also neither describes nor suggests combining the processed radar signals to form an aggregate value as set forth in Claim 1.

Gellekink describes a system which includes two radars but the radars merely process their own radar signals. Gellekink neither describes nor suggests a system in which one radar processes signals from a second different radar. Gellekink also neither describes nor suggests a system for combining the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in Claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentably distinct over the Gellekink reference.

Claims 2, 5, 9, 10 and 11 each depend from and thus include the limitations of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 5, 9, 10 and 11 are patentably distinct over the Gellekink reference at least for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 1.

Applicants submit that independent Claim 12 is patentably distinct over Gellekink since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests "...a method of processing radar signals comprising... radiating a first signal beam by a first radar ...receiving, in the first radar, echo signals from the first signal beam ... receiving, in the first radar, echo signals from a second signal beam radiated by a second different radar ...and processing, in the first radar, the echo signals from the first and second signal beams to provide first-radar processed echo signals.

Claim 13 depends from and thus includes the limitations of Claim 12 and thus is patentably distinct over the cited reference generally for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 12.

Applicants submit that independent Claim 14 is patentably distinct over Gellekink since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests a ... radar comprising ... a receiver to receive echo signals from the first signal beam and echo signals from a second signal beam radiated ... by a second antenna of a second radar ... and circuitry to process the echo signals from the first and second signal beams received by the receiver, and to combine the processed echo signals with echo signals from the first and second signal beams that have been received by a receiver of the second radar and processed, to form an aggregate value.

Claim 15-18 and 21 each depend from and thus include the limitations of Claim 14 and thus are patentably distinct over the cited reference generally for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 14.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Gellekink should be removed.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1,2, 5, 9, 10-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bethke (U.S. Patent number 5,488,243).

Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentably distinct over the cited reference since the reference neither describes nor suggests "...radiating a first signal beam from ... a first radar ... radiating a second signal beam ... of a second radar ... receiving echo signals from the first signal beam at the first and second radars ... receiving echo signals from the second signal beam at the first and second radars ... processing the echo signals received at the first radar to produce first radar processed echo signals ... processing the echo signals received at the second radar to produce second radar processed echo signals; and combining the first and second radar processed echo signal values to form an aggregate value..." as called for in Claim 1.

Bethke describes an air traffic control system which includes multiple radars but the multiple radars merely process their own radar signals. Bethke neither describes nor suggests combining the processed radar signals to form an aggregate value as called for in Claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentably distinct over the Bethke reference.

Claims 2, 5, 9 and 10 each depend from and thus include the limitations of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 5, 9 and 10 are patentably distinct over the Bethke reference at least for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 1.

Applicants submit that independent Claim 12 is patentably distinct over Gellekink since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests "...a method of processing radar signals comprising... radiating a first signal beam by a first radar ...receiving, in the first radar, echo signals from the first signal beam ... receiving, in the first radar, echo signals from a second signal beam radiated by a second different radar ...and processing, in the first radar, the echo signals from the first and second signal beams to provide first-radar processed echo signals.

Claim 13 depends from and thus includes the limitations of Claim 12 and thus is patentably distinct over the cited reference generally for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 12.

Applicants submit that independent Claim 14 is patentably distinct over Gellekink since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests a ... radar comprising ...a receiver to receive echo signals from the first signal beam and echo signals from a second signal beam radiated ... by a second antenna of a second radar ... and circuitry to process the echo signals from the first and second signal beams received by the receiver, and to combine the processed echo signals with echo signals from the first and second signal beams that have been received by a receiver of the second radar and processed, to form an aggregate value.

Claim 15-18 and 21 each depend from and thus include the limitations of Claim 14 and thus are patentably distinct over the cited reference generally for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 14.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Bethke should be removed.

The Examiner rejects Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 19, 20 and 22 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gellekink (U.S. Patent number 4,793,907) in view of Schutte (U.S. Patent number 5,302,955) and Ghose (U.S. Patent number 5,014,061).

The Examiner has taken the position that Gellekink substantially shows the claimed invention but concedes that Gellekink does not show coherent or incoherent combination of signals. The Examiner relies upon Schutte and Ghose to show techniques for coherently combining signals and for incoherently combining signals.

Each of Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and thus include the limitations of Claim 1. Claim 1 calls a method in which a radar processes its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in Claim 1.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 are patentably distinct over the combination of references cited by the Examiner since the combination of references neither describes nor suggests a radar processes its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in each of Claims 3, 4 and 6-8.

Each of Claims 19, 20 and 22 – 24 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 14 and thus include the limitations of Claim 14. Claim 14 calls for a system in which a radar processes

its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in Claim 14.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 19, 20 and 22 – 24 are patentably distinct over the combination of references cited by the Examiner since the combination of references neither describes nor suggests a radar which processes its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in each of Claims 19, 20 and 22 – 24.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 19, 20 and 22 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be removed.

The Examiner rejects Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 19, 20 and 22 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bethke (U.S. Patent number 5,448,243) in view of Schutte (U.S. Patent number 5,302,955) and Ghose (U.S. Patent number 5,014,061).

The Examiner has taken the position that Bethke substantially shows the claimed invention but concedes that Bethke does not show coherent or incoherent combination of signals. The Examiner relies upon Schutte and Ghose to show techniques for coherently combining signals and for incoherently combining signals.

Each of Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and thus include the limitations of Claim 1. Claim 1 calls a method in which a radar processes its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in Claim 1.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 are patentably distinct over the combination of references cited by the Examiner since the combination neither describes nor

suggests a radar processes its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in each of claims 3, 4 and 6-8.

Each of Claims 19, 20 and 22 – 24 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 14 and thus include the limitations of Claim 14. Claim 14 calls a system in which a radar processes its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in Claim 14.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 19, 20 and 22 – 24 are patentably distinct over the combination of references cited by the Examiner since the combination of references neither describes nor suggests a radar which processes its own return signals as well as the return signals from a second different radar to provide processed radar signals and then combines the processed radar signals of two different radars to form an aggregate value as called for in each of Claims 19, 20 and 22 – 24.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 19, 20 and 22 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be removed.

In view of the above amendment and Remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 1 – 24 and

the entire case are in condition for allowance and should be sent to issue and such action is respectfully requested.

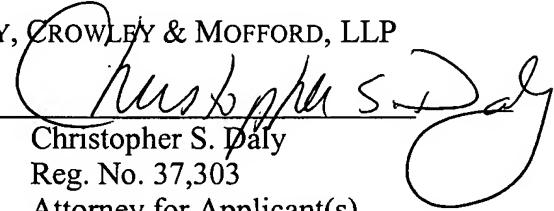
The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Response or this application.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845, including but not limited to, any charges for extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136.

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Respectfully submitted,

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